

# The McClures

## Summer in Brazil is Busy!

In January of last year we were so busy with the transition to a new city that we did not feel the full effect of Brazilian summer activities. This year, however, we experienced the full-blown effect.

### Pastors' Retreat

January is vacation time in Brazil. It is also the month that the pastors of São Paulo state hold a retreat. We just missed this event last year, so it was a blessing to be able to attend this year. It was a time to relax and have fellowship with pastors we already knew from our city, as well as meet some new pastors who minister here in this state. While Ann Janel and I had a good time, the highlight for us was to watch our kids interact with their teachers and classmates for the week. They are steadily improving their Portuguese skills, but we still weren't

sure how they would adapt to five hours a day with nothing *but* Portuguese. They surprised us by not only learning a new song in Portuguese, but singing it with their friends for the whole group of pastors and their wives. To top it off they merrily quoted the memory verse for the week: their first verse in Portuguese!



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### Youth Camp 2009

Every year in February or March, Brazil nearly shuts down for *Carnaval*. Since many people have a few days off from work, it becomes the perfect time for church camps. In our current region, rather than large, multi-church camps, many churches opt for renting a small resort area for just their youth or families. I was invited to speak at a youth camp for the first BBFI church planted in Campinas. We didn't know the pastor or church very well, so this was a great opportunity to meet some more people in our city. We had a great time at the camp, and were able to see God's Word speaking to the hearts of many young people, four of whom came to know Jesus as their Savior!

### School is back in Session

In early March, I was asked to teach one of the classes for the new school year starting at the Baptist Bible Institute of Campinas. Please pray for the Institute and for Christian ministerial education in general. We are seeing a drop in enrollment numbers in various schools around the country, and a decline in students planning to enter full-time ministry. There is a lot of pressure on young people to pursue money careers. Some enroll in Bible schools to improve their Bible knowledge, but all the while planning to work secular jobs. We obviously are not against an infusion of knowledgeable Christians into the workforce, but even now there are not enough full-time ministers to fill the pulpits of churches in this state, much less start new church plants.

.....Ministering to the peoples of Brazil